



AFCARS Foster Care Data Element Standards

Bulletin #8

Revised September 19, 1995

FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
1	State	2	Always required.	State FIPS code for State submitting report	No internal consistency standard.	100% of records must have valid values.
2	Report Period Ending Date	4	Always required.	yy mm yy=00-99; mm=03, 09	No internal consistency standard.	100% of records must have valid values.
3	Local Agency (FIPS Code)	5	Always required.	5 digit FIPS code	The Local Agency must be the county or a county equivalent unit which has the responsibility for the case.	100% of records must have valid values.
4	Record Number	12	Always required.	Any ASCII character except "@", "\$", "#", or "%".	No internal consistency standard.	100% of records must have valid values.

FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
5	Date of Most Recent Periodic Review	6	May be left blank if child has been in care less than nine months.	Blank, yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	<p>If element 21 (Date of Latest Removal) is less than 9 months prior to element 2 (Reporting Period Ending Date), then this field <i>may</i> be left blank.</p> <p>If element 21 is greater than 9 months from element 2, then this field must not be more than 9 months prior to element 2.</p>	90% of records that do not meet Criteria II must have valid values.
6	Date of Birth	6	Always required (if unknown, enter an approximate date of birth).	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records must have valid values.
7	Sex	1	Always required.	1-2 1 = Male 2 = Female	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records must have valid values.

FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

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8	Race	1	Always required.	1-5 1 = White 2 = Black 3 = American Indian/Alaskan Native 4 = Asian Pacific Islander 5 = Unable to Determine	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records must have valid values.
9	Hispanic Origin	1	Always required.	1-3 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records must have valid values.
10	Has Child Been Clinically Diagnosed with Disability(ies)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	1-3 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Not Yet Determined	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

Criteria:

- I:** Episode has lasted less than 30 days.
II: Date of Latest Removal (#21) is before October 1, 1995.

FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
11	Mental Retardation	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	If child has been identified as having a disability(ies) (Element 10 = 1), then at least one of elements 11 through 15 must have a value = 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
12	Visually or Hearing Impaired	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
13	Physically Disabled (Child)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
14	Emotionally Disturbed (DSM III)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

Criteria:

I: Episode has lasted less than 30 days.

II: Date of Latest Removal (#21) is before October 1, 1995.

FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
15	Other Medically Diagnosed Conditions Requiring Special Care	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	If child has been identified as having a disability(ies) (Element 10 = 1), then at least one of elements 11 through 15 must have a value = 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
16	Has Child Ever Been Adopted?	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	1-3 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
17	If Yes, How Old Was Child When Adoption Was Legalized?	1	Only required if element 16 (Has child ever been adopted) = 1.	0-5 0 = Not Applicable 1 = less than 2 years old 2 = 2-5 years old 3 = 6 to 12 years old 4 = 13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine	If child has been adopted (Element 16 = 1), then this field must have a value of 1 through 5.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

Criteria:

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
18	Date of First Removal From Home	6	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
19	Total Number of Removals From Home to Date	2	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	01-99	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
20	Date Child Was Discharged from Last Foster Care Episode	6	Required if current episode is not first episode.	Blank, yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	<p>If element 19 (Total Numbers of Removals From Home to Date) has a value = 1, then this field must be blank.</p> <p>If Element 19 is ≥ 2, then this field must <i>not</i> be blank.</p> <p>If this field is <i>not</i> blank, it must be a date <i>prior</i> to element 21 (The Date of Latest Removal From Home).</p>	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

Criteria:

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
21	Date of Latest Removal from Home	6	Always required.	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	This date must be <i>equal to or prior</i> to element 23 (Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting).	90% of records must have valid values.
22	Removal Transaction Date	6	Always required.	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	This field must be later than or equal to the date entered in Element 21 (Date of Latest Removal from Home).	90% of records must have valid values.
23	Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting	6	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
24	Number of Previous Placement Settings During This Removal Episode?	2	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	01-99	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
25	Manner of Removal from Home for Current Placement Episode	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	1-3 1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined	If element 5 (Date of Most Recent Periodic Review) is <i>not</i> blank, then this field <i>cannot</i> have a value equal to 3.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

Criteria:

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
26	Physical Abuse (alleged/reported)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	At least one of elements 26 through 40 must have a value equal to 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
27	Sexual Abuse (alleged/reported)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
28	Neglect (alleged/reported)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
29	Alcohol Abuse (alleged/reported)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
30	Drug Abuse (parent)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	At least one of elements 26 through 40 must have a value equal to 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
31	Alcohol Abuse (parent)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
32	Drug Abuse (child)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
33	Child's Disability	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
34	Child's Behavior Problem	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	At least one of elements 26 through 40 must have a value equal to 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
35	Death of Parent(s)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
36	Incarceration of Parent(s)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
37	Caretaker's Inability to Cope Due to Illness or Other Reasons	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
38	Abandonment	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	At least one of elements 26 through 40 must have a value equal to 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
39	Relinquishment	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
40	Inadequate Housing	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
41	Current Placement Setting	1	Always required.	1-8 1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home (Relative) 3 = Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) 4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records must have valid values.
42	Out of State Placement	1	Required if Criteria II isn't met regardless of whether or not Criteria I is met.	1-2 1 = yes 2 = no	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria II must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
43	Most Recent Case Plan Goal	1	Required if Criteria I isn't met regardless of whether or not Criteria II is met.	1-7 1 = Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal caretaker(s) 2 = Live with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I must have valid values.
44	Caretaker Family Structure	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	1-5 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
45	Year of Birth (1st Principal Caretaker)	2	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met and element 44 (Caretaker Family Structure) has a value of 1 through 4. (May leave blank if element 44 equals 5.)	yy yy=00-99	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
46	Year of Birth (2nd Principal Caretaker - if applicable)	2	May leave blank if only 1 caretaker (element 44 = 3, 4, or 5).	yy yy=00-99	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
47	Date of Mother's Parental Rights Termination (if applicable)	6	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	This field must not be blank if element 58 (Reason for Discharge) equals 3 (Adoption).	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
48	Date of Legal or Putative Father's Parental Rights Termination (if applicable)	6	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	This field must not be blank if element 58 (Reason for Discharge) equals 3 (Adoption).	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
49	Foster Family Structure	1	May be left blank if child is not in foster home or preadoptive home (element 41 = 1, 2, or 3).	0-4 0=Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	If element 41 (Current Placement Setting) has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 (indicating that the child is not in a foster family or pre-adoptive home), then element #49 should be 0.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
50	Year of Birth (1st Foster Caretaker)	2	May be left blank if child is not in foster home or preadoptive home (element 41 = 1, 2, or 3).	Blank, yy yy=00-99	If element 41 (Current Placement Setting) has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 (indicating that the child is not in a foster family or pre-adoptive home), then elements #50 and #51 should be blank.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
51	Year of Birth (2nd Foster Caretaker)	2	May be left blank if child is not in foster home or preadoptive home (element 41 = 1, 2, or 3).	Blank, yy yy=00-99		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
52	Race of 1st Foster Caretaker	1	May be left blank if child is not in foster home or preadoptive home (element 41 = 1, 2, or 3).	0-5 0 = Not Applicable 1 = White 2 = Black 3 = American Indian/Alaskan Native 4 = Asian Pacific Islander 5 = Unable to Determine	If element 41 (Current Placement Setting) has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 (indicating that the child is not in a foster family or pre-adoptive home), then elements #52-55 should be 0.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
53	Hispanic Origin of 1st Foster Caretaker	1	May be left blank if child is not in foster home or preadoptive home (element 41 = 1, 2, or 3).	0-3 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
54	Race of 2nd Foster Caretaker (if applicable)	1	May be left blank if child is not in foster home or preadoptive home (element 41 = 1, 2, or 3).	0-5 0 = Not Applicable 1 = White 2 = Black 3 = American Indian/Alaskan Native 4 = Asian Pacific Islander 5 = Unable to Determine	If element 41 (Current Placement Setting) has a value = 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 (indicating that the child is not in a foster family or pre-adoptive home) then elements #52-55 should be 0.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
55	Hispanic Origin of 2nd Foster Caretaker (if applicable)	1	May be left blank if child is not in foster home or preadoptive home.	0-3 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

Criteria:

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#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
56	Date of Discharge from Foster Care	6	No missing data standard. Leave blank if child was not discharged from foster care.	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	If this field is applicable, the date entered must be later than the Date of Last Removal From Home (Element 21).	90% of records must have valid values.
57	Foster Care Discharge Transaction Date	6	No missing data standard. Leave blank if date of discharge (#56) has not been entered.	yy mm dd yy=00-99; mm=01-12; dd=01-31	If element 56 (Date of Discharge from Foster Care) is present this field must not be blank and must be later than or equal to the date entered in Element 56.	90% of records must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
58	Reason for Discharge	1	Should be left blank if child has not been discharged yet (element 56 is not blank).	0-8 0 = Not Applicable 1 = reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child	No internal consistency standard.	90% of records must have valid values.
59	Title IV-E (Foster Care)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	At least one of elements 59 through 65 must have a value of 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
60	Title IV-E (Adoption Assistance)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
61	Title IV-A (Aid to Families With dependent Children)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	At least one of elements 59 through 65 must have a value of 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
62	Title IV-D (Child Support)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
63	Title XIX (Medicaid)	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.
64	SSI or Other Social Security Benefits	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies		90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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FOSTER CARE DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

#	Data Element Name	Field Size	Missing Data Standard	Out-of-Range Standard	Internal Consistency Standard	Penalty Standard
65	None of the Above	1	Only required if neither Criteria I nor II are met.	0-1 0 = Condition Does Not Apply 1 = Condition Applies	At least one of elements 59 through 65 must have a value of 1.	90% of records that do not meet Criteria I & II must have valid values.

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II: Date of Latest Removal (#21) is before October 1, 1995.